

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
VALDOSTA DIVISION

JACOB ALAN HAROUFF,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff	:	
	:	
VS.	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 7:05-CV-101 (HL)
	:	
ASHLEY PAULK; MARK ELKINS;	:	
DWIGHT PEETE; LOWNDES	:	
COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT;	:	
LOWNDES COUNTY COMMISSION,	:	
	:	
Defendants	:	<b><u>ORDER</u></b>

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Plaintiff **JACOB ALAN HAROUFF**, formerly a pretrial detainee at the Lowndes County Jail in Valdosta, Georgia, filed a pro se civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. He has paid the initial partial filing fee as ordered by the Court on October 7, 2005.

**I. AMENDMENT FILED ON DECEMBER 25, 2005**

Plaintiff filed his original complaint on September 22, 2005 (R. at 2). On December 8, 2005, he filed a "Motion to Amend Plaintiff's Witness List and Statement of Claim." Plaintiff seeks to add the name of Officer Hess in the place of "unknown female officer" in his Statement of Claim. He also seeks to add the name of one witness (Officer B. Lane). Additionally, plaintiff shows that several witnesses are no longer located at the jail.

Because no responsive pleadings have been served, plaintiff is entitled to amend his complaint "once as a matter of course." Fed. R. Civ. P. 15 (a). Therefore, plaintiff's "Motion to Amend Plaintiff's Witness List and Statement of Claim" filed on December 25, 2005 is **GRANTED**.

## **II. AMENDMENT FILED ON JANUARY 3, 2006**

On January 3, 2006 plaintiff filed another amendment to his complaint (R. at 11). This complaint basically restates the allegations contained in plaintiff's original complaint. It does not appear that there are any new allegations upon which relief could be granted under the facts of the amended complaint so as to justify amending plaintiff's complaint again. While it is true that under Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a) leave to amend shall be freely given, it is by no means guaranteed. *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962). Moreover, Fed. R. Civ. P. 15 (a) specifically provides that "[a] party may amend the party's pleadings **once as a matter of course** at any time before a responsive pleading is served." (emphasis added). Plaintiff in this case has already been allowed to amend his complaint once. Based on this, plaintiff's January 3, 2006 motion to amend is **DENIED**. See *United Assoc. of Journeymen & Apprentices etc. v. Georgia Power Co.*, 684 F.2d 721 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982) (holding that the court has wide discretion in ruling upon motions to amend complaints).

## **III. ORDER FOR SERVICE ON ASHLEY PAULK, MARK ELKINS, AND DWIGHT PEETE**

In a separate Recommendation entered on this date, the Undersigned recommended to Judge Hugh Lawson that all of plaintiff's claims and all named defendants be dismissed except the following claims and defendants: His claims against Ashley Paulk, Mark Elkins, and Dwight Peete regarding the lack of air circulation/air conditioning that resulted in his alleged loss of consciousness on July 7, 10, and 15, 2005. Specifically, plaintiff states that he lost consciousness between the hours of 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm on these dates. Plaintiff maintains that his "mental processes seem like they have been impaired since then." Moreover, plaintiff states that due to the heat and humidity he has a fungal infection that has gone untreated. Reading plaintiff's complaint liberally,

as the Court must because this is a pro se prisoner complaint, plaintiff has alleged that these defendants were aware of the lack of air conditioning, his loss of consciousness, and his infections. While the Court has reservations regarding the ultimate validity of plaintiff's claims against Sheriff Paulk, Mark Elkins, and Dwight Peete, the Court will allow the action to go forward at this time.

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED** that service be made as provided by law upon defendants **ASHLEY PAULK, MARK ELKINS, AND DWIGHT PEETE**, and that they file a Waiver of Reply, an Answer, or such other response as may be appropriate under Rule 12 of the FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, U.S.C. § 1915, and the *Prison Litigation Reform Act*.

It is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED that a copy of this order be served upon plaintiff's custodian, if any.

**DUTY TO ADVISE OF ADDRESS CHANGE**

During the pendency of this action, each party shall at all times keep the clerk of this court and all opposing attorneys and/or parties advised of his current address. Failure to promptly advise the Clerk of any change of address may result in the dismissal of a party's pleadings filed herein.

**DUTY TO PROSECUTE ACTION**

Plaintiff is advised that he must diligently prosecute his complaint or face the possibility that it will be dismissed under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for failure to prosecute. Defendants are advised that they are expected to diligently defend all allegations made against them and to file timely dispositive motions as hereinafter directed. This matter will be set down for trial when the court determines that discovery has been completed and that all motions have been disposed of or the time for filing dispositive motions has passed.

**FILING AND SERVICE OF MOTIONS, PLEADINGS, DISCOVERY AND CORRESPONDENCE**

It is the responsibility of each party to file original motions, pleadings, and correspondence with the Clerk of court; to serve copies of all motions, pleadings, discovery, and correspondence upon opposing parties or counsel for opposing parties if they are represented; and to attach to said original motions, pleadings, and correspondence filed with the Clerk a certificate of service indicating who has been served and where (i.e., at what address), when service was made, and how service was accomplished (i.e., by U.S. Mail, by personal service, etc.). The Clerk of Court will not serve or forward copies of such motions, pleadings, and correspondence on behalf of the parties.

**DISCOVERY**

Plaintiff shall not commence discovery until an answer or dispositive motion has been filed on behalf of the defendants from whom discovery is sought by the plaintiff. The defendants shall not commence discovery until such time as an answer or dispositive motion has been filed. Once an answer or dispositive motion has been filed, the parties are authorized to seek discovery from one another as provided in the FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE. The deposition of the plaintiff, a state/county prisoner, may be taken at any time during the time period hereinafter set out provided prior arrangements are made with his custodian. **Plaintiff is hereby advised that failure to submit to a deposition may result in the dismissal of his lawsuit under Rule 37 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that discovery (including depositions and interrogatories) shall be completed within 90 days of the date of filing of an answer or dispositive motion by the defendant unless an extension is otherwise granted by the court upon a showing of good cause therefor or a protective order is sought by the defendants and granted by the court. This 90-day period shall run separately as to each plaintiff and each defendant beginning on the date of filing of each defendant's answer and/or dispositive motion. The scheduling of a trial may be advanced upon notification from

the parties that no further discovery is contemplated or that discovery has been completed prior to the deadline.

Discovery materials shall not be filed with the Clerk of Court. No party shall be required to respond to any discovery not directed to him or served upon him by the opposing counsel/part. The undersigned incorporates herein those parts of the **Local Rules** imposing the following limitations on discovery: except with written permission of the court first obtained, **INTERROGATORIES** may not exceed TWENTY-FIVE (25) to each party, **REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THINGS** under Rule 34 of the FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE may not exceed TEN (10) requests to each party, and **REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS** under Rule 36 of the FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE may not exceed TEN (10) requests to each party. No party shall be required to respond to any such requests which exceed these limitations.

#### **REQUESTS FOR DISMISSAL AND/OR JUDGMENT**

Dismissal of this action or requests for judgment will not be considered by the court absent the filing of a separate motion therefor accompanied by a brief/memorandum of law citing supporting authorities. Dispositive motions should be filed at the earliest time possible, but in any event no later than thirty (30) days after the close of discovery unless otherwise directed by the court.

#### **DIRECTIONS TO CUSTODIAN OF PLAINTIFF**

Following the payment of the required initial partial filing fee or the waiving of the payment of same, the Warden of the institution wherein plaintiff is incarcerated, or the Sheriff of any county wherein he is held in custody, and any successor custodians, shall each month cause to be remitted to the Clerk of this court twenty percent (20%) of the preceding month's income credited to plaintiff's account at said institution until the \$250.00 filing fee has been paid in full. In accordance with provisions of the ***Prison Litigation Reform Act***, plaintiff's custodian is hereby authorized to forward payments from the prisoner's account to the Clerk of Court each month until the filing fee is paid in full, provided the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DIRECTED that collection of monthly payments from

plaintiff's trust fund account shall continue until the entire \$250.00 has been collected, notwithstanding the dismissal of plaintiff's lawsuit or the granting of judgment against him prior to the collection of the full filing fee.

**PLAINTIFF'S OBLIGATION TO PAY FILING FEE**

Pursuant to provisions of the *Prison Litigation Reform Act*, in the event plaintiff is hereafter released from the custody of the State of Georgia or any county thereof, he shall remain obligated to pay any balance due on the filing fee in this proceeding until said amount has been paid in full; plaintiff shall continue to remit monthly payments as required by the *Prison Litigation Reform Act*. Collection from the plaintiff of any balance due on the filing fee by any means permitted by law is hereby authorized in the event plaintiff is released from custody and fails to remit payments. In addition, plaintiff's complaint is subject to dismissal if he has the ability to make monthly payments and fails to do so.

**ELECTION TO PROCEED BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1) authorizes and empowers full-time magistrate judges to conduct any and all proceedings in a jury or nonjury civil matter and to order the entry of judgment in a case upon the written consent of the parties. If the parties desire for the United States Magistrate Judge to hear this case through trial and the entry of judgment, they may obtain the necessary consent forms from the Clerk of the Court.

**SO ORDERED**, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2006.

/s/ Richard L. Hodge  
RICHARD L. HODGE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

## NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES

PURSUANT TO THE COURT'S ORDER REGARDING DISCOVERY SET OUT ABOVE, NO DISCOVERY SHALL BE PERMITTED IN THIS CASE UNTIL AN ANSWER OR DISPOSITIVE MOTION (e.g., MOTION TO DISMISS, MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT, MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS) HAS BEEN FILED BY THE DEFENDANT(S).

PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, DISCOVERY (DEPOSITIONS, INTERROGATORIES, REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THINGS, REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS, ETC., AND RESPONSES THERETO) SHALL NOT BE FILED WITH THE CLERK OF COURT. NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURE HERETOFORE FOLLOWED IN THIS DISTRICT.

DO NOT FILE ANY DISCOVERY WITH THE COURT UNLESS YOU ARE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TO DO SO BY THE COURT OR UNLESS FILING IS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT OR CONTEST A MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY, OBJECTION TO DISCOVERY, DISPOSITIVE MOTION, OR SIMILAR MOTION. THE CLERK IS DIRECTED TO RETURN ANY SUBMITTED DISCOVERY TO THE PARTY SUBMITTING IT UNLESS IT IS FILED PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OF THE COURT OR IN SUPPORT OF A MOTION TO COMPEL, OBJECTION TO DISCOVERY, DISPOSITIVE MOTION, OR SIMILAR MOTION.

